Volume 7, Number 4 August 1977

WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

DEVOTED TO WESTERN STATES EXONUMIA

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Published by
WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY

The WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER is the official publication of the Western States Token Society, an informal, educational, non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating and maintaining interest in the tokens, medals and exonumia of the Western States.

WESTS was founded in 1971 as the California Token Society. In the same year, the name was changed to the California-Nevada Token Society to reflect the interests of its members. In 1975, the scope of interest was expanded to include all the western states, and starting in 1977, the name was changed again to its present form--Western States Token Society.

Dues are $5.00 per year, paid in advance. Members receive the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER, as well as other benefits. Back issues of the LEDGER are available @$0.75 from the editor.

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= PUBLICATION DEADLINES =

Issue Date: February, April, June, August, October, December
Copy Deadline: 15th day of issue date month
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Articles and ads should be submitted to the editor as far in advance of the copy deadline as possible. Material will not be returned unless requested specifically.

= ADVERTISING RATES AND DATA =

Members are entitled to one free six-line advertisement in each issue, but a new ad must be submitted each time. Paid line-ads are $1.00 per six lines.

Display advertising rates are $10 full page (4-1/2"x7-1/4" area), $5.50 half page, $3.00 fourth page, all for camera-ready copy. If copy is to be prepared, the rates are 50% higher. Original copy may be reduced to 80% of original size for publication; for this reduction, the original copy size shall be 5-5/8"x9" maximum.

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Address changes should be reported to the secretary-treasurer.

WESTS holds two general membership meetings each year--one in the spring and the other in the fall (usually at the annual coin show of the Delta Coin Club, Stockton, Cal.). Additionally, local membership meetings are arranged often by various members; notice of these meetings is publicized in the LEDGER. All interested persons are invited to attend any of our meetings.

STOCKTON MEETING NOTICE: - The semi-annual membership meeting of the Western States Token Society will be held on Saturday, November 12, at the Vagabond Motel, 33 N. Center St., Stockton, Cal. As usual, this meeting is conducted at the time of the annual coin show of the Delta Coin Club which will take place on November 12 and 13 at the Holiday Inn. Ordinarily we would meet at the Holiday Inn, but this year there was no meeting room available. The Vagabond is located right next door to the Holiday Inn, so the location will be convenient for those who might want to also attend the coin show. The meeting will begin at noon, and the room will be open to us until 5 PM. Tables and chairs will be placed in the room to facilitate the buying, selling and trading which always takes place at our meetings.

There will be a few business matters to consider, including election of officers. The only change necessary this year is the selection of a new secretary-treasurer to replace Hal Dunn who has had to give up the job because of time pressures from all his involvements in various aspects of token collecting. - DHF

PUBLICATION INFORMATION: - October 26--this issue of the *LEDGER* was intended to be ready long before this date, but publication was delayed for a couple of reasons. First off, we needed the information for the Stockton meeting, and the dates of the Delta Coin Club show were not available to us until recently. Then there was the problem of finding a meeting room. A second delay came from wanting to include a review of the new Kappen catalogue. Distribution was meant to occur in late August or early September, but evidently it did not happen until mid-October as one copy was received on October 21, and a bulk shipment on October 25. Hopefully, the wait is worth the results!

To get us back on schedule, the next issue of the *LEDGER* is being worked on right now. It will feature a listing of all Idaho medals as compiled by Kendall Ballard, and supplemented by Stephen Album.

Ads and other material for this issue should be sent to the assistant editor, Duane H. Feisel, by November 12. Steve Album is out of the country, away to Europe on another of his frequent overseas trips. - DHF

19 SEPTEMBER 1977: - Once again, late, but not so bad as last month, I contend. Part of the delay was due to the lack of articles, and material only arrived a few days ago for us to use.

Since preparing the last Ledger, I have purchased a large collection of Minnesota trade tokens, the majority of which formerly made up the collection of Oregon exonumist Ted Newville. After integrating the new purchase, which yielded about 2000 pieces I needed, I now have about 740 different towns. I have prepared a listing of these towns, and will gladly send a list of these to anyone interested (SASE appreciated).

WESTS MEMBERSHIP TOKENS: - Our 1977 membership tokens have finally arrived, and they are quite attractive with the new WESTS logo design by member Glenn Rome. These tokens, appropriately stamped with your membership number will be included with this issue of the *LEDGER* if it has not already been sent to you. Also, for those few members who have already paid dues for 1978, that token will also be included; the 1978 token is on hand, having been ordered at the same time as the 1977 pieces.

WESTS owns the special design die with the logo, and use of that die is available to members for having made personal tokens. With the WESTS logo one side, up to 10 words of plain lettering on the other side (extra words, subject to space availability, run $1 each), 500 pieces of the 1-1/4" diameter tokens is brass will cost $50.40, and in aluminum $35.20. These prices reflect a 20% discount from the usual prices. Postpaid delivery will be made ordinarily in four to six weeks. Your order, together with full payment, should be sent to Duane H. Feisel, P.O. Box 1302, Los Altos, CA 94022. Some WESTS members have already placed orders involving use of the logo, and others are considering it. This is an inexpensive way to have an attractive personal token. - DHF

49'ERS: Barry Hepsley of Santa Rosa reports the appearance of the 1977 San Francisco 49'ers football schedule token by Pinch. He received an example at Coddingtown Liquors when purchasing some of their wares. When paying at the register, he was asked by the clerk, "Do you have one of these?", upon which he was handed the aluminum token.

**********SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**********
by Hal Dunn

Address Changes
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DUES--DUES--DUES: - Although the final decision on the amount of 1978 WESTS dues will be made at the meeting in Stockton, it is expected that the membership fee will remain at $5.00. Accordingly, this is the first call for dues payment for 1978. Because our current secretary-treasurer, Hal Dunn, will be giving up that position, and a successor has not yet been selected (William Willeges, Jr. has agreed to take the job, but there is an uncertainty in his address as he is seeking employment after graduating from UC-Davis), dues payments should be sent to Duane H. Feisel, P.O. Box 1302, Los Altos, CA 94022. The oft-delayed and sorely needed membership roster will become a reality in 1978 if members will cooperate by completing and returning the form accompanying this issue.

A completed form is needed for all members. When work was started on a roster in 1977, it was found that much of the membership data was outdated or not at hand for many members. Thus, the value of the roster, requiring a lot of time, effort and expense in preparation and distribution, would have been diminished. We will have a nice roster for 1978, and it will be made better through the help of all members. - DHF

HELP WANTED--ESPECIALLY YOURS: - Putting out a publication on a regular basis is a lot of work. Assembling everything and preparing it for the printer, together with collating, folding and mailing, is quite a job in itself. Really, that is a lot to expect from anyone on a volunteer basis. When writing and preparing most of the material appearing in the issue is thrown in on top, it becomes an onerous load requiring a lot of time and effort. A few members have helped ease the load by supplying articles, and occasionally by helping with the mailing, but much broader support is needed from the membership. Two people have been carrying the load on this publication. If you feel guilty for not having done something to help, then this note has achieved its purpose. If each member were to submit only one article a year, we could have a truly great publication. Don't you have something to write about? - DHF

= REVIEW: *CALIFORNIA TOKENS*, by CHARLES V. KAPPEN =

by Duane H. Feisel

CALIFORNIA TOKENS by Charles V. Kappen. 1976. 760 pp. Illustrated. Hard Cover. The Token and Medal Society, Inc. $13.50 TAMS member, $15.00 non-member. Order: N. Neil Harris, P.O. Box 951, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

The long-awaited Kappen catalogue has finally been released after many production delays. This huge volume is a potpourri of California exonumia including merchant trade tokens, store cards, all wooden issues including flats, printed paper and cardboard pieces, medals, souvenirs, poker chips, restrikes and die trials, tool checks, mirrors, whetstones, encased coins and postage stamps, game counters, magician tokens, political pieces and pieces for movie stars and movies.

Excluded are Masonic pennies, elongated or rolled coins, gold pieces, military chits and other coupons, watch fobs, key tags (although I note many such pieces listed), bottle openers, shoe horns, transportation tokens unless they were also used as store cards and communion, sales tax and ration tokens.

All pieces, except for unverified location tokens, restrikes, copies and die trials, are individually priced. Tokens and other items are listed alphabetically by location, and locations are listed alphabetically. For each location, the county is noted. Within each location, pieces are consecutively numbered.

The introduction includes historical information for the firms such as Thurnauer & Zinn, Joseph Brothers, etc., which issued the very early California store cards. Also included in the introduction is a brief history for many of the minting firms in California. This historical information is useful for, in many cases, it allows one to date approximately the issuance of an item.

Scattered throughout the book are numerous plates which illustrate some of the more interesting listings. The photographs are of uniformly high quality, reproduced in actual size, and are a joy to behold! It is unfortunate that more of these photographs were not included--I understand that space limitations prevented inclusion of many of the photographs which had been submitted.

In a work of this magnitude there are bound to be problems, and this catalogue seems to suffer from a significant number.

Trying to use the index of maverick tokens is an agonizing experience. The alphabetization of the index is

completely jumbled. Still, with a great deal of time and effort, the index can be used to locate maverick tokens, but be prepared for a lot of frustration. I found that some maverick tokens were not indexed. Also, for some of the index entries, I could not locate the pieces under the place they were supposed to be listed.

With respect to mavericks, listed are a large number without supporting information justifying the listing. In my opinion, many of these listings are extremely questionable. A relatively small number of maverick tokens are described as "attribution unverified" and are not priced. Can one assume then that maverick listings without that notation have been verified? I think not. A small fraction of maverick pieces include attribution information (some of which I have been unable to verify by the library of directories I have). It appears that the cataloguer was careless with some of the maverick attributions, overly ambitious with others and too trusting with some suggested to him. During one period of California token collecting some years ago, there seemed to be a drive among collectors to attribute every maverick token to California if any relationship could be established, no matter how tenuous, and there seem to be a large number of listings of this type. As far as I am concerned, the cataloguer does no favor to the collector by listing tokens with specious attributions. All too often, that which appears in print becomes the reference for future scholars, even though it may be in error and even though there may be an attempt to issue a correction. Such is the power of the printed word. It is far better to be a conservative when listing maverick tokens to a specific location.

I also take issue with attributing numbered unit military tokens to California, or a specific location within the state, unless the inscription of the token provides that information. Without that information in the legend appearing on the token, it is virtually impossible to ascribe such tokens to California. Perhaps the military unit may have been stationed in California at one time, but the same unit may also have been stationed at numerous locations throughout the United States and overseas. Who can say, then, where the token was issued and used? In my opinion, listing such tokens to California locations is wishful thinking.

Some maverick tokens can be ambiguous as to attribution. A businessman may have had establishments in several locations at one time, or may have moved about over the years. When a maverick token carries only the name, then where to list the token is pretty much at the descretion of the cataloguer. One will find a number of discrepancies between the Kappen catalogue and the Album catalogues.

This is to be expected, and I do not find it objectionable.

With respect to the Album catalogues, Kappen fails to mention them at all, either in his notes or in the bibliography. This seems to me to be a serious breach of ethics and of scholarship. Kappen appears to have used listings from the Album catalogues, and he certainly is aware of the existence of those pioneering volumes. Accordingly, they should have been noted and referenced.

Included in the listings are a number of items I consider to be of questionable nature as far as collectors of California exonumia are concerned. For example, the metallic Friendship Inn tokens, used at hundreds of locations in the United States and abroad, are listed specifically for Greenfield, Kern County, without comment. A related issue of thin cardboard pieces exist; many of the Friendship Inns rubber-stamped their name and address on these pieces of cardboard, and some are listed. Are rubber-stamped impressions a collectable item? There are also listed similar type pieces used at numerous locations, but ascribed to a specific location by the cataloguer.

Cross references to the Curto catalogue are given for some of the military tokens. For some others, a note is made that the piece is unlisted in Curto. And for others, no note is provided--can we assume on those that the cataloguer doesn't know if they are listed in Curto? It would have been useful had the cataloguer cross-referenced the parking and car wash token listings to those specialized catalogues. Failing that, he should have at least noted how such tokens are used since in many cases the inscription on the token provides no clue.

One other difficulty with the listing is that the author often differentiates between two similar listings by stating that one or other of the pieces has larger (or smaller) letters. Unless one has both pieces for comparison, it is impossible to tell which of the two items you have for such listings. There are other ways to describe differences of this nature, and the author would better have used them.

There are also deficiencies, some serious, in the catalogue at the production level. Typographical errors are numerous, but perhaps not too great a number considering the difficulty in preparing camera-ready copy for such a complex undertaking. Still, there are many, they do affect the use of the catalogue, so one should be aware that they do exist in number.

Previously mentioned is the hopeless condition of the maverick token index. This defect has me puzzled--I am unable to figure out how it could have happened.

There were four blank pages in the initial copy I received. However, a quantity shipment arrived later, and those four pages did carry printing. While page 693 appears to be missing, you can find at eight pages later at page 701. At first I thought the listings were lissing, but they are only misplaced.

I find the material on pages 90 and 91 to be reversed in position. Also, the listings for Gridley are out of order within that location.

There are probably other similar problems I did not note as I leafed through the catalogue. Perhaps TAMS will issue something to correct all these problems.

If anything is going to create controversy, it will be the pricing in this catalogue. The author has made a bold attempt to price each item individually, but there are a lot of problems. For starters, many of the prices were established several years ago when that part of the manuscript was submitted. But that is only the beginning. It seems to me that the author has attempted to price items without having adequate information or without proper consideration of the pieces. Personally, I disagree with about 90% of the prices, even on a relative basis. In my estimation, many of them are low by a factor of two or three, while many others are high by a factor of ten or more. Several examples illustrate this.

Under Palo Alto is a piece for The Goal, J.B. Larkin, 10¢ In Trade Or Buss Ride To Univ., priced at $3.00. This is an old octagonal brass token, with attribution certain by virtue of a companion piece which carries a Palo Alto inscription. As far as I know, I have the only known example of the token. In addition to being attractive, old, unusual and rare, the piece is also of interest to collectors of transportation tokens. Compare that price then with the Yee On W 5¢ maverick attributed to Pajaro (I think it is from Watsonville) and listed at $4.00. The Yee On W maverick is an extremely common token, and worth at most 25¢ to 50¢.

Perhaps another example is provided by something of higher value. Under San Francisco, four pieces are listed with the J.T. Jones counterstamp, and priced each at $50. This counterstamp is quite rare, and was not listed in the Miller catalogue. Compare this to the relatively common J.L. Polhemus counterstamp from Sacramento. Here 22 different pieces are listed at prices ranging from $65 to $100.

In my opinion, there are many thousands of wrong prices provided. While the pricing may have been a noble under-

taking, I have a feeling that it will work against the collector by creating confusion and chaos in whatever market exists. I hope it does not do to California tokens what a priced volume of so-called dollars did to that collecting specialty. My feeling is that the prices suggested in the Kappen catalogue should be taken with the proverbial "grain of salt."

The provision of a rarity rating would have been much more useful to the collector. Price is related to rarity, as well as many other factors, many of which are subjective, both to the seller and the buyer.

The desire to incorporate all the listings into a single volume has resulted not only in a somewhat unwieldy tome, but also in pages which are crammed from top to bottom and margin to margin with printing. This cramming, coupled with the style employed for listing, makes the catalogue difficult to use. One cannot scan a page quickly and find the listing he seeks, but must look very carefully. This becomes quite tiring when one attempts to use the catalogue for any time.

In addition to the cramming, the conglomerate listings of tokens, medals, restrikes, wooden nickels, tool checks, etc., make it even more difficult to locate the specific item of interest.

Despite all the production defects and my criticisms of various aspects of the listings, this is a book which anyone interested in California tokens must have. There are hundreds, possibly thousands, of trade tokens not yet listed by Album, including a number from previously unreported locations. If wooden nickels and the like are your interest, interspersed through the listings is probably a very complete catalogue of such items from the Golden State. The complete listing of almost 3,500 restrikes by Anillo from dies of the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company is useful and informative (although the author should have mentioned that in most cases, the restrikes are worth only a few cents apiece). There are many valid attributions for maverick tokens, and even the questionable listings provide a starting point for further work.

The author is to be congratulated for providing this wealth of information gathered over many years. Unless one has done similar cataloguing work, it is impossible to fully appreciate all the time and effort that has gone into this catalogue. Unfortunately, however, I feel that the author has tried to put too much into one undertaking, and the resultant defects detract from the catalogue being of greater value to collectors. I do not see this book becoming a "bible" or "standard," but rather a most useful compilation of California exonumia listings.

STONE HOUSE - PLACERVILLE

Anita Lerch

Legends surround the Old Stone House in Placerville. Pigtailed Chinese smoked opium below, while on the upper floor, "ladies" of the house awaited customers. The Ladies were paid with specially minted coins, marked "Stone House" and purchased beforehand by the customer. A "mine shaft" tunnel through the hill behind connected Stone House to Main Street, preserving the anonymity of the customers.

Old Stone House was built around 1865 by Chinese labor, using hand-hewn rock. Exact information about its use as a bordello before the turn of the century is not available, but local historians say Stone House was a bordello off and on from 1920 until 1948, when the town's "houses" were shut down.

In 1972, a local attorney, John Berry, purchased the Stone House and restored it for use as a professional building, in part to house his own law offices.

John Berry was also interested in trade tokens, and purchased Ed Miller's collection of El Dorado County tokens, displaying them in his office. When John John Berry died a few years later, the collection could not be found: it has not been seen since.

The Stone House tokens are real; their exact use is not known. Stone House issued one known token. Although it was probably used in slot machines or at the bar, not in payment of a lady's favors, many collectors would prefer to believe the latter. Because of high interest in genuine items issued by houses of prostitution, these tokens are of greater value to collectors than ordinary tokens of Placerville merchants.

STRAHLE/ST. GERMAIN TOKEN RESEARCH: - A request for help has been received from WESTS member Dick Magnusson, 301 Cedar, Wallace, ID 83873, for listings of tokens having indications that they were made for Jacob Strahle & Co. and St. Germain Billiard Co., or Estate of St. Germain. These firms, located in San Francisco, were manufacturers of billiard and pool equipment in the late 1800's. Dick would like to have rubbings of obverse and reverse of these tokens, along with information as to size, metal, denomination, shape and issuer's name, as well as attribution information if available.

Possibly Dick's intention is to make a specialized listing of these tokens similar to the one he did (along with two additional authors) for the Brunswick-Balke-Collender and related firm tokens. This work was prepared as a special supplement to the TAMS Journal recently. - DHF

= LONG BEACH REPORT =
by Duane H. Feisel

The most recent in the series of Long Beach Coin & Stamp Expositions, held at the end of September, again included a special section for exonumia dealers. WESTS member Paul Koppenhaver has been the moving force behind having that special section.

I was attracted to the show this time because of the exceptional group of California trade tokens offered in the Koppenhaver auction held on Saturday afternoon. Arriving late Friday afternoon (the show opened on Thursday), I spent most of that time reviewing the auction material. It was not described very accurately, and Paul explained that he had relied too heavily on the descriptions provided by the consignor. There were many more unlisted items than had received that identification. More on the auction itself later.

Arriving early on Saturday morning when the show opened, I was able to visit some of the dealers. In the exonumia section itself, I spent time with Paul Koppenhaver, Larry Elman, Ben Adams, Walt Korzek and Christensen & Stone (C&S had along their extensive stock of postcards--I could have spent many more hours there). The bourse floor also provided a variety of exonumia material from among the many coin and stamp dealers present.

I did not see too many collectors while I was there, leaving in the late afternoon on Saturday after the auction. Also, most of the time I was there I was busy, so I certainly missed seeing many of those attending. However, I did see Steve Alpert, Jere Runciman, Ken Smith, Bob Marvin, Bob Null and a few others.

This is the time to mention that on the drive down to Long Beach, I stopped off to see a coin dealer located away from the beaten path. From him I was able to purchase a small lot of about 70 tokens which included such items as pieces from Owensmouth, South Pasadena, El Cerrito, Pinole, Seal Beach and National City, plus unlisted tokens from larger towns such as Fresno, Oakland, Los Angeles and San Francisco, all topped off with a few out-of-state tokens, and some interesting mavericks. The dealer was almost apologetic in asking $1 apiece for the lot, or $2 each if purchased individually. I tried not to be in too great a hurry in reaching for my wallet. After I committed myself to that purchase, the dealer let me go through his junk box. Anything of interest was priced at $1 except for a handful of items he tossed in free of charge. Flushed with this fortuitous purchase, I was in a mood to bid on the heavy side at the auction.

At the floor auction, Jere Runciman and I seemed to be the only ones interested in the California trade checks, and between the two of us, we were able to buy most of the desirable pieces. The mail bids were particularly strong on a few dairy tokens, and neither of us were willing to go that high. There was also a Civil War token collector on the floor who had an interest in two of the California trade tokens, and he pushed up the bidding to the point he did get one of the lots (a nice piece from Bishop). Ron Lerch had asked me to bid in a couple of pieces he was especially interested in, and I was able to get them far below the maximum be had set.

According to Koppenhaver, his next auction at the Long Beach show (I believe it will be in February 1978) will carry another hundred or so lots of nice California trade tokens, as well as other desirable material. I believe that show will also again have a special section for exonumia dealers. If interested, inquire of Paul for more information.

All in all, attending the show was most worthwhile for me. On the trips down and back I not only made the nice purchase of tokens described earlier, but I was able to obtain a quantity of modern pieces for my collection. Additionally, I took orders for a number of custom minted tokens from businesses. And at the show itself I was able to make some nice purchases in addition to all the pieces from the auction, many of them purchased at truly bargain prices. Finally, I was happy with the group of postcards bought from Christensen & Stone.

You will have a hard time keeping me away from that show come next February!

AVA MEETING REPORT: - As publicized in earlier issues of the *LEDGER*, the annual convention of the American Vecturist Association was held in Carson City in August. Chairman Hal Dunn ran a smooth event and included the innovation of a regular bourse. This convention was attended heavily by local collectors as well as by a number of collectors out of the immediate area from many parts of the country. As to be expected, a large number of all kinds of tokens changed hands. Running without opposition, Hal Dunn was elected to serve as president of this organization for the next two years. With a membership of approximately 600, the AVA enters its 30th year in 1978. Although the primary focus is on transportation, parking and car wash tokens, a variety of other collecting interests run through the membership. Especially strong right now are personal tokens of AVA members. The AVA has backed specialized catalogues of transportation, parking, car wash, real estate and AVA

member personal tokens. That coupled with a monthly newsletter makes the AVA in the forefront of providing exonumia information to collectors. Membership information can be obtained from Hal Dunn.

Next year the AVA will meet in Louisville, KY. A bid has been submitted to hold the 1979 convention in San Jose, CA, while the 1981 convention has been bid by Salt Lake City. - DHF

REVIEW: *TRADE TOKENS OF WISCONSIN* by G. E. JOHNSON — by Duane H. Feisel

TRADE TOKENS OF WISCONSIN, 10 YEAR SUPPLEMENT by Gerald A. Johnson. 1977. 162 pp. Soft cover. Published by the author. $5.00. Order: Gerald A. Johnson, 1921 Chase St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

While not a catalogue for one of the Western states, this catalogue may be of interest to some members who wish to add to their knowledge. The review will be on the brief side.

Back in 1967, Johnson issued a catalogue of Wisconsin trade tokens, one of the earliest, if not the earliest, efforts to provide a catalogue of tokens for a given state. This current effort is meant to supplement the earlier listing by reporting new discoveries. While plastic tokens were reported in the first volume, they are excluded from the supplement. By the way, I believe that copies of the first catalogue are still available, and you should inquire of Mr. Johnson if you are interested.

While there is a maverick index, it is not as helpful as it could be--the entries are rather brief. For example, last names of proprietors are listed without first name or initials, even when that information is part of the legend on the token.

Tokens are listed by location arranged alphabetically. For each location, tokens are listed by the peculiar method of alphabetically according to the first word in the obverse inscription. Code numbers are assigned to each piece, but the code number must be used together with the location for identification.

No rarity scale is provided, nor is pricing attempted. Similarly, there is no identification of modern tokens. I find many maverick tokens listed without being indexed. No attribution information is provided.

All in all, this is a bare bones token listing.

CALIFORNIA OR NEVADA MAVERICK?: - WESTS member C.E. Ziegler, 2705 Grace Rd, Port Huron, MI 48060, reports that a digger located a quantity ("a roll") of the following item at a location in central western Nevada:

C.F. / HAMPTON / LARSCO // Good For / 12-1/2 / In Trade
(aluminum, 23 mm, borders t/t)

Attribution information can be sent to Mr. Ziegler or to the *LEDGER* editor.

CAHTO, CAL. - Now there is one even I had not heard of before. My 1900 California map shows it just to the west or southwest of Laytonville, in Mendocino Co., and a 1900 directory lists L. Blodah as saloonkeeper. The only other entry in the directory is for Andrew Haun, saw & planing mills, at the nearby Jackson Valley, which I cannot locate. A current CSAA map shows Cahto Cr. just west of Laytonville, flowing through Laytonville Indian Rancheria, and Cahto Peak (el. 4234) just to the northwest. It is hard to tell whether Mr. Blodah was quenching the thirst of lumberjacks or peddling thunderwater to the Indians, but a combination of both is most likely. The token is aluminum, and the only known specimen has been dug, and looks it; it is owned by a private party, a non-collector, who permitted WESTS member Ed Saunders to take a rubbing:

A 25 b/b L. BLODAH / CAHTO, CAL.
Good For / One / Drink / St. Germain Billiard Co. San Francisco, Cal.

The signature on this piece suggests it must have been struck between 1892 and 1897, though my directory shows the fellow still at it in 1900; I have checked no later or earlier directories.

Together with this piece came an unlisted Laytonville, issued by F.J. Lott, not listed in my 1900 directory:

B 21 p/p F.J. LOTT / LAYTONVILLE / CAL.
Good For / 5¢ / In Trade

REVIEW: *COLORADO MERCHANT TOKENS*, by WRIGHT AND NOTT

by Duane H. Feisel

COLORADO MERCHANT TOKENS by Jim Wright and Lee Nott. 1977. 336 pp. Illustrated. Hard Cover. Published by the authors. $13.50 (also available looseleaf punched $9.00). Order: Jim Wright, 7960 Raleigh St., Westminster, CO 80030 or Lee Nott, P.O. Box 7130, Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Appearing during the summer of 1977, the new catalogue is an updating of an earlier catalogue by the same authors plus Don Cary. That forerunner volume had a limited printing so that copies were not available to all who wanted them. This new release not only solves the availability problem, but provides substantial new information and offers vast improvements over the earlier book.

Some 3500 tokens are listed according to locations arranged alphabetically. For each location, the tokens are arranged alphabetically according to the first word of the obverse inscription. The county is indicated for each location. A maverick index is provided.

Interspersed through the pages of listings are pages of token photographs as well as historical photographs of businesses and towns.

The book, although not done with a great deal of sophistication, is clearly a scholarly presentation. Attribution information is provided for virtually every token, and occasional historical notes liven the presentation. I feel the authors have set a new standard in this area.

When I speak of lack of sophistication, that is really a minor point. The book could have been improved through better editing. For example, the title page does not include all the information which should be included on a title page. The heading "FOREWORD" is misspelled as "FORWARD"--a mistake which also occurred in the earlier catalogue. I am perhaps sensitive to this because I made exactly the same error in the first edition of the parking token catalogue, but it was caught before publication by someone more experienced than myself. There are a few other minor production difficulties such as the crooked page number on ii, the extraordinarily large margins at the bottoms of the pages, the floating position of the page number, and a few minor typographical errors. These things are really trivial, but a greater attention to them would have improved at least the visual appearance of the publication.

The authors must have a valid reason for alphabetically listing tokens by the initial word of the obverse inscription, but I find it most awkward. To me, listing by the

name of the establishment makes a great deal more sense, and this is usually the way cataloguers arrange listings. With the authors' technique for listing, tokens for the same issuer can be separated widely. The maverick index, ordinarily a useful tool, becomes difficult to use because you have to search through all the listings to find the piece you are looking for. At least the manner of listing obverses in capital letters and reverses in lower case letters, coupled with space between listings, makes it easy to scan through the listings. Placing the information as to size, shape, metal and rarity at the right-hand margin is different than the technique used by most cataloguers, but I find it does help in finding information while scanning. Other cataloguers should look carefully at this method--I know I will give it consideration for any new catalogues I work on.

Each distinct obverse is given a code number consisting of a letter (or letters) and a number. Different reverses for a given obverse are coded by a lower case letter. The numbers assigned are in numerical order, but do not run consecutively thus permitting additions to the listing without disrupting the numbering. It appears that all tokens have been assigned new code numbers from those assigned in the first catalogue.

The authors also include information about all the decorations or "dingbats" (that is what the diesinkers call the decorations, and that term is also used in the printing trade) which appear on the tokens. Certain decorations recurring often are given a code designation, but many of the decorations are illustrated through handdrawings. I have mixed emotions about including the decorations in a listing. I find I often am attracted to those decorations instead of the inscriptions as I am scanning the listing--they can be distracting. It is also obvious that including the decorations meant a lot of extra work for the cataloguers. In only a relatively small fraction of the listings do the decorations help to distinguish between varieties. But I did find that I had some unlisted pieces where the difference came from the decorations.

A rarity rating is assigned to each piece based on a scale from 1 to 10, 1 being the most common (over 75) and 10 the rarest (unique). For modern pieces, no rarity is provided, and such pieces are instead designated by M. I am not in a position to judge the reliability of the rarity number assigned, although I do know that some of the 10's are not 10's. I wish the authors would have made some attempt to correlate price with rarity. Perhaps someone can put together something on this for inclusion in a future issue of the *LEDGER*.

As I used the book to catalogue the known Colorado tokens I have and to identify mavericks, I encountered a few problems, particularly as related to mavericks. First of all, there is the difficulty mentioned earlier in finding the listing for a specific maverick index entry, especially in the towns where many tokens are listed. I did find that many maverick tokens are listed, but no entry is provided in the index. There appear to be relatively few typographical errors. To my mind, some of the maverick attributions are questionable, but they are few in number. The introduction states that sizes are given to the closest millimeter, yet there are some pieces listed to 1/2 millimeter. Some sizes are listed incorrectly, especially for modern tokens, and not always do the modern tokens receive the special rarity notation of M.

I also have a notation that Arrowhead should be given a separate location listing. I am unable to find the specific listing now, but apparently there is a piece listed with Arrowhead part of the inscription, but the token is listed under another town name since the name had been changed from Arrowhead.

The inclusion of photographs of tokens is welcomed in this volume, and are a valuable addition to the listings themselves. However, there is room for vast improvement in this area. First, it would be helpful to denote in the listing those pieces which are depicted. Also, it would help to identify the specific pieces right on the photographic plate. The photographs uniformly suffer from not being in sharp focus--this may be a characteristic of the equipment used. Also, they are not reproduced in the same size as the actual token, but are presented at some unspecified enlargement. Finally, only token obverses are shown--I feel strongly that both obverse and reverse should be shown together. Despite these criticisms, the photographs provided are better than no photographs at all.

Postcard and photographic views are shown for businesses and main streets. I really have enjoyed those pictures which seem to add so much flavor to the token listings themselves which can be pretty dry. I wish there could have been references at the appropriate places that related photos were included. Other cataloguers should give serious consideration to inclusion of material of this type.

No one interested in Colorado tokens can afford to be without this volume. The authors are to be congratulated for presenting a true catalogue of merchant trade tokens. They exclude medals, wooden nickels, scrip booklets, tax tokens, modern-produced fantasy brothel tokens and other items not strictly trade tokens. For the most part, they

have stuck to the subject at hand.

I recommend you buy this book now if you have any interest at all in Colorado tokens.

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= BACK ISSUES OF *LEDGER* AVAILABLE =

by Duane H. Feisel

Contained in the pages of the *LEDGER* is a wealth of information. We have an accumulation of back issues, and many of them should be of interest to those who were not members of our organization at the time they were issued.

Listed below are the various issues available; for each issue I list one or more of the significant articles apearing in that issue. There is always other useful information in each issue.

Back issues are usually priced at 75¢ each, but to help move them out and to help disseminate the information in these issues, each copy after the first four will be priced at 50¢. For example, eight copies would cost a total of $5.00 (4x75¢ + 4x50¢). To order, list the Volume and Number.

Volume 1 No. 1 - June 1971 - 8 pp.
- Mavericks - Ron Lerch
- E.D. Galloway and His United Cigar Store Tokens - Donald D. Finch

Volume 2 No. 1 - February 1972 - 18 pp.
- Checklist of Trade Tokens and Store Cards with Elko, Elko, Nev., or Elko, Nevada, Embossed - Len Hoskins
- Breuner's Five Dollar "Bridal Token" - R. F. Herberg and Duane H. Feisel
- Hot Springs of Monterey County - Duane H. Feisel
- Camps of the McCloud River Lumber Company - Ed Saunders
- The Goldfield Hotel--Opulence of a Bygone Era - Hal Dunn

Volume 2 No. 2 - April 1972 - 18 pp.
- Crystal Saloon & Swiss American Hotel of Newman, Cal. - Chas. J. Madonna, Jr. as told to Bob Swain
- Harrison Gulch (Knob), California - Bud & Ev Kannenberg
- More on Elko Tokens - Len Hoskins
- The Regans of Carson City and Reno - Hal Dunn

Volume 2 No. 3 - June 1972 - 10 pp. + 20 pp.
- New Find of Mother Lode Tokens - Duane H. Feisel
- Membership Roster (supplement)

Volume 2 No. 4 - August 1972 - 8 pp.
- Have You Ever Heard of Delta, California? - Edward Saunders
- More (San Francisco) Token Hunting Part III - Jerry Schimmel

Volume 2 No. 5 - October 1972 - 8 pp. + 4 pp.
- Getting the Business - Edward L. Saunders
- More (San Francisco) Token Hunting: Part IV - Jerry Schimmel
- Index of Towns for Album's Vol. I (Supplement)

Volume 2 No. 6 - December 1972 - 12 pp. + 8 pp.
- Around the Auctions - Duane H. Feisel
- Notes on Some Anaheim, Cal. Tokens - Bob Marvin
- Merchant Tokens and Store Cards of Ormsby County, Nevada - Hal Dunn (supplement)

Volume 3, No. 1 - February 1973
- More from Nevada County - Stephen Album
- Moutain Copper - E. L. Saunders

Volume 3 No. 2 - April 1973 - 8 pp. + 12 pp.
- Cotton Pickers' Tokens from Earlimart, Calif. - Don Finch
- The Hammond Lumber Company - E. L. Saunders
- Tokens are Where You Find Them - Stephen Album
- Checklist of Current San Francisco Bar and Trade Tokens - Jerry F. Schimmel (supplement)

Volume 3 No. 3 - June 1973 - 12 pp.
- Albert Ramon Grocery Store, Dinuba CA - John Reynolds
- How Do You Really Spell Jarbidge? - Len Hoskins
- California Trade Token Place Names: Additions - Stephen Album

Volume 3 No. 4 - August 1973 - 14 pp.
- Merchant Tokens and Store Cards of Storey County, Nevada - Hal Dunn
- Modern Tokens in Alameda County - Stephen Album
- The Bellevue Saloon, Los Angeles - Stephen Album

Volume 3 No. 5 - October 1973 - 14 pp.
- Watsonville - Stephen Album

Volume 4 No. 1 - February 1974 - 12 pp.
- The Interesting Ones - Ed Saunders
- The Cleaning of Tokens - R. F. Herberg

Volume 5 No. 3 - June 1975 - 8 pp
- Comstock '49 Camp, An Arror - Hal V. Dunn

Volume 5 No. 4 - August 1975 - 12 pp.
- History of the Ed Jones Co., Oakland - James Bolander
- My Grandfather's Pool Hall - Jon McCollum
- Empire Pool Hall Hickies - John Reynolds
- New Medals - Stephen Album

Volume 5 No. 6 - December 1975 - 10 pp.
- Checklist of California Medals: 1973 Issues - Stephen Album

Please note that all these issues were different in format than what we have now--pages were 8-1/2"x11" in size. Some of the issues are available in only a few copies. All 1976 and 1977 issues are available at present as well. Please send your order, together with a check made out to WESTS, to: Duane H. Feisel, P.O. Box 1302, Los Altos, CA 94022. Prices quoted include postage.

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YUKON, N.W.T., B.C. trade tokens and numismatica wanted. Will buy or trade.
Leslie C. Hill P.O. Box 80129 South Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3X5 CANADA

NEBRASKA TOKENS wanted and available for trade.
Benj Fauver P.O. Box 521 Menlo Park CA 94025

WILL TRADE my 2 new personal/fantasy tokens, Latigo Stage Lines one fare, and Latigo Mining Co., one stick powder, for your personal if I don't have it, a trade token with city & state, 3 dog licence tages, or a SASE.
Clarence Ziegler 2705 Grace Rd. Port Huron MI 48060

WANTED TO SWAP: SAMBO'S coffee chips from most States, prefer Cal, but other states too. Also still have few of NV items listed in last Token Ledger, plus also a few spinners.
J.G. Nicolosi 3002 Galindo St. Oakland CA 94601

NEW PERSONAL token for trade for any other personal or coin dealer's token (no wood or Patrick Mint, please).
Stephen Album P.O. Box 7386 Santa Rosa CA 95401

CALIF - NEV - ORE Trade for MONT - IDA - WASH. My lists for yours. Specify State.
Lewis L. Egnew P.O. Box 123 Port Townsend WA 98368

YOU NEED to sell me your extra tokens and medals. Paying highest cash prices. No collection or accumulation too large or small. Send complete description, price & quantity available.
Bill Williges Box 445 Wheatland CA 95962

CALIFORNIA Royal Arch Chapter pennies WANTED: San Jacinto #87, Calistoga #118, Vacaville #81, La Purissima #104, Hollenbeck #132, Bellflower #132, Eaglerock #134, Mark J Lee of Eaglerock #132, Watts #138, and Manteca #142, Write, stating price.
Grover C. Davis 1503 Tehama Corning CA 96021

AUCTION - 2 nice CAL tokens: (1) A.P.&C.Corp/Trona//Good For/1¢/In Trade - red fibre; (2) L.O.O.M.652/Burbank/Calif.//Good For/5¢/In Trade - brass; closing 30 days after postmark on this Ledger.
Bob Slawsky P.O. Box 423 Rockaway NJ 07866

LARGE LIST of tokens and medals for sale or trade, available for 25¢.
Stephen Alpert 11106 National Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90064

TRADE - Reprint, Replica, Fantasy, or Real banknotes overprinted for use as advertising. Send up to 5 different, receive same number different.
J.W. Baum 3113 N. Arkansas Av. Wichita KS 67204

WANTED: TOKENS from Stockton, Cal., California Mother Lode or Nevada. Buy or sell.
J.L. McPheeters 472 W. Monterey Ave. Stockton, CA 95204

TRADE FOR IDAHO TOKENS OR OTHER IDAHO MEMORABILIA:

1. IDAHO 100 Years Old Fort Boise 35 mm bronze medal
2. Lovely plate, New Zion Baptist Church, 2935 Lincoln Ave., Ogden, Utah. Picture inside church. Dedication of church Oct. 19-26, 1958.
3. Sage Brush Saloon, Reno, Nevada / g/f 1 Drink or Cigar
4. Nampa City Lines / g/f One Fare, brass, dia. cut-out
5. Leader DG Co., Two Buttes, Colo. / g/f 50¢ in Trade, brass, much corrosion
6. Perotti Pool Hall, Montrose, Colo., g/f 10¢ aluminum
7. Kenney's Kash Store, Ione, Colo., 5¢ brass
8. Commercial Saloon, One Drink or Cigar, Stockton (Cal.), Brunswick Balke Co.
9. Carter & Halter, Van Wyck, Idaho, g/f 5¢ brass
10. Fresno, Calif., Fresno Bottling Co. beer opener
11. Kennett, Calif., Open a Bottle of "Wieland's" with Us, J. D. Cook & Son, old beer opener, shaped like pre-1900 woman's boot
12 Chas. Melroy, Murray, Idaho, g/f 1 Drink, brass

Kendall Ballard Route 1 Rexburg, ID 83440

TRANSPORTATION TOKENS, CAR WASH TOKENS, PARKING TOKENS--- If you collect any of these items, then you should belong to the American Vecturist Association. Write for membership information and an application blank.

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EACH MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO ONE FREE SIX-LINE AD IN EACH ISSUE, BUT A DIFFERENT AD MUST BE SUBMITTED EACH TIME-- NO STANDING ADS. YOUR AD SHOULD BE WRITTEN (PREFERABLY TYPEWRITTEN) ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER, AND NOT AS PART OF LETTER. SEND IN AD COPY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

LAST MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENT: - In a telephone conversation with Charlie Kappen, he informs me that a corrected version of the index for his new catalogue will be printed and made available. Also, a listing of corrections will be included in this publication. He asks for the cooperation of collectors in listing errors they note. To get into the publication planned, these lists should be sent to him no later than November 12. Alternatively, lists can be turned in at the meeting in Stockton on that date.

Perhaps it will be possible to provide information on the availability of the corrections booklet in the next issue of the *LEDGER*. - DHF

Calendar of Coming Events

NOVEMBER 12: Semi-annual membership meeting of Western States Token Society, Vagabond Motel, 33 N. Center St., Stockton, California, noon until 5 PM

NOVEMBER 12: Deadline for material for the October issue of the *LEDGER*

NOVEMBER 12: Deadline for listing of errors in the new Kappen catalogue--mail to Kappen, or submit list at the meeting in Stockton

NOVEMBER 13: Membership meeting, Bay Area Token Society, home of Bud Carmichael, San Jose, California, noon until 5 PM

KAPPEN CATALOGUES MAILED: - Most copies have been mailed to those who pooled their orders together for one large order from WESTS. Considering the speed of the mails, it may be a while before the books reach you. - DHF

TOKEN AND MEDAL JAMBOREE ANYONE? - In a recent issue of METCA's *TRADE TOKEN TOPICS*, editor Bary Bender mentioned the idea of holding a METCA get-together in Seattle, or some other location in the Northwest. That seems like a great idea, and I hope it materializes. But why not go a step farther and make the event a real token and medal gathering by including dealers, and holding it over a two day period (at least) so those traveling can make it seem more rewarding. Going that far, then you just about have a Token and Medal Jamboree such as the ones held in San Jose and Pittsburgh.

I hate to see the Jamborees die because I think they were of value, and collectors certainly enjoyed and benefitted from them. Also the dealers. I think that rotating the location year-by-year of a Jamboree from Seattle to San Francisco to Portland to Los Angeles might work out well.

What about it Seattle-area collectors? - DHF

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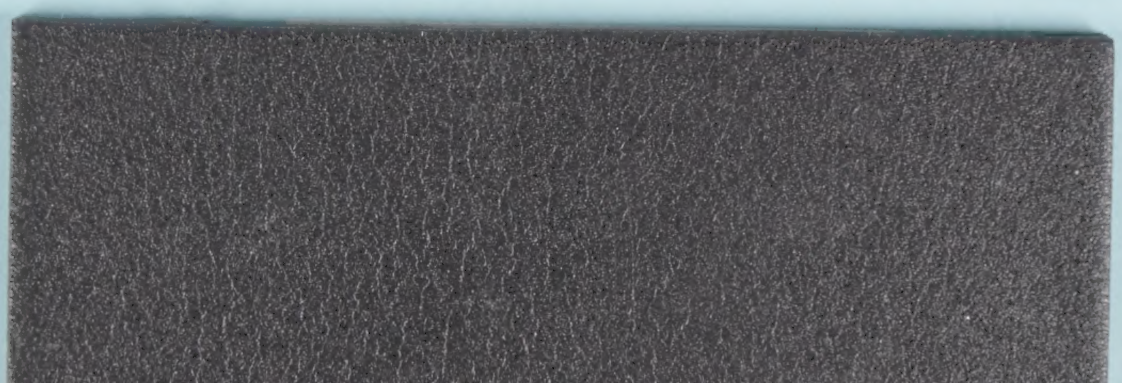
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